GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6811
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
ATROCITIES ON SC/ST
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any suggestion or request from the Members of Parliament and Social Organizations to comply with Protection of Civil Rights Act (PCR Act) and Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Act, 1989 (POA Act) strictly and to ensure the role of public representatives in such cases and to take action against District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police by fixing their responsibility in the matters of atrocities, wherein many people of these communities are killed and their properties are damaged extensively;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)&(c) Role of Public representatives has been outlined in Section 15A(2)
(iv) of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Section 21 (2)
(v) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Rule 3(ix) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) rules, 1995 also provides that State Governments shall encourage Non-Governmental Organizations for establishing and maintaining awareness centres and organizing workshops and provide them necessary financial and other sort of assistance. As regards action against public servants, the provision for abetment of offence/punishment for neglect of his duties has already been made in Section 10 of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Section 4 of the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 respectively.

Ministry of Home Affairs, in their letter dated 12.11.1998 addressed to Chief Secretaries of States/UTs, has requested them to accord higher priority in the framing, implementation and monitoring of the policies/schemes under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and to consider an appropriate mechanism for this purpose.